



Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
March 13, 2025
SB 282

Keeping the Kansas Promise Coalition
Opponent Testimony- Written Only

Chair Dietrich and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Keeping the Kansas Promise Coalition to offer opponent testimony on SB 282, which would establish the Kansas Retirement Investment and Savings Plan (KRISP) as a new retirement option for public employees, effective July 1, 2027.

Keeping the Kansas Promise is a coalition of public employee organizations formed to collectively advocate for fair and affordable reforms to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs) to ensure the long-term solvency of the system while also ensuring public retirees have an opportunity to retire with dignity.

We appreciate SB 282 being introduced to help add to the discussion and efforts to improve KPERs 3. However, in accordance with testimony that we have previously provided to this committee, our Coalition respectfully ask all lawmakers to consider what impact any proposal may have regarding the retirement income replacement ratio as you deliberate on this policy issue. Now that KPERs Tier 3 has been in effect for ten years, state policymakers, public workers and retirees alike can clearly see that KPERs Tier 3 does not measure up to the legacy plans commonly known as KPERs Tiers 1 and 2. Because we do not have a full understanding as to how SB 282 will impact the retirement income replacement ratio, and we have concerns that it may cost more to taxpayers over the long-term, we cannot support this proposal at this time and urge the committee not to advance it.

While our preferred approach for improving retirement benefits would be for all KPERs 3 members to be moved to KPERs 2, we believe that HB 2086, which passed the House earlier this session and was recently considered by this committee, offers a far better approach for improving KPERs 3. We encourage the Senate to support HB 2086, rather than SB 282.

We are grateful for the work that has been done over the past decade by state legislators and other policymakers to secure KPERs' long-term stability and sustainability. We are also grateful that many of those same legislators and policymakers are now realizing that the KPERs 3 reform that commenced a decade ago is not on track to provide as an adequate retirement for public sector retirees as originally hoped, and that efforts must be made to improve that system to foster

an environment so state and local governments can recruit and retain the quality public workforce our citizens and taxpayers expect. At the same time, we fully recognize there must be a balance that guarantees a stable KPERS over the long term, protects taxpayers, while also providing an adequate retirement benefit for public workers.

Our Coalition stands ready and willing to collaborate with any legislators who want to improve retirement benefits for Kansas public workers, keep the KPERS system strong, and protect taxpayers.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on the efforts to improve KPERS 3.

Submitted by:

Keeping the Kansas Promise Coalition

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